

Appln. No.: 09/496,516
Amendment Dated March 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2004

SAR 12165A

Remarks/Arguments:

The specification is amended to correct a minor error. It is clear from the surrounding text that the word "receiver" was in error as it is clear that a transmission must originate from a transmitter. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 15-24 are pending in the above identified application. Claims 19-24 are allowed.

Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 15. In particular, Giles et al. do not disclose or suggest:

receiving means for receiving a first signal including a first data value and a second data value different from the first data value;

counter means for increasing a count value up to a maximum count value when the first signal includes the first data value and decreasing the count value down to a minimum count value when the first signal includes the second data value;

data means for producing a third data value when the count value is equal to or greater than a first threshold value which is less than the maximum count value and a fourth data value when the count value is equal to or less than a second threshold value which is greater than the minimum count value;

Giles et al. recites:

The counter 18 and the aforementioned control circuitry which together form filter 16 acts to filter out the excursions 50 to 53 of the /CS signal (and necessarily the CS signal). The control circuitry includes a first circuit means which responds to the CS, /CS, M and S signals to (1) provide a filter output sampling network 17, (2) to enable counter 18 to count from one of its S or M states toward the other when there is a change in /CS signal level and (3) to inhibit counter 18 when either the S or M count condition is attained. (col. 4, lines 39-48).

As described in Giles et al., the counter is inhibited when the high threshold value or low threshold value is reached. Thus, the high threshold for the counter in Giles et al. is the maximum value of the counter and the low threshold is the minimum value of the counter (Giles et al., Figure 2), while in the subject invention as defined by claim 15, the counter means increases the count value up to a maximum count value and the data means produces the third

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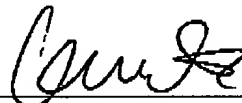
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data value when the count value is equal to or greater than a first threshold value which is less than the maximum count value. Basis for this amendment may be found in Figure 10 and at page 17, lines 4-21. Because Giles et al inhibit the counter when the high or low threshold values are reached the counter does not count below the low-threshold, even though the low-threshold value is above the minimum count value, and, the counter does not count above the high-threshold, even though the high-threshold value is below the maximum count value. Thus, the range of count values that may be used to filter out noise is less in the system disclosed by Giles et al. than it is in the subject invention as defined by claim 15. Because Giles et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 15, claim 15 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles et al.

Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 15-18.

Respectfully submitted,



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